

VFW for their achievement of the Diamond Jubilee Award. May God bless our precious veterans and their families.

HONORING CONGREGATION
MISHKAN ISRAEL AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 165TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join Rabbi Herbert Brockman and the many friends and families who have gathered to celebrate the 165th Anniversary of Congregation Mishkan Israel. Marking its 165th anniversary, Mishkan Israel is the oldest continuing congregation in New England and the 14th oldest synagogue in the United States. This milestone is a very special occasion, not only for the administration and members of the congregation, but for our community as well.

First established in 1840 by a group of Bavarian Jews fleeing economic and social oppression, services, conducted in German and Hebrew, were held over the Heller & Mendelbaum Store in New Haven, Connecticut. A short time later, the congregation purchased the Third Congregational Church building which remained its home until 1897 when the temple on Orange and Audubon Streets was dedicated. With the continued growth of the congregation, the synagogue made its final move in 1960 to its present home on Ridge Road in Hamden.

The strength and continuity of a congregation is dependent, not only on its membership, but on its leadership as well. Since its earliest days when it was the first synagogue to be dedicated by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, who later became the leader of American Reform Judaism, Congregation Mishkan Israel has had a strong tradition of active leadership. Generation after generation, the rabbis who have come to Mishkan Israel have shared a passion for social justice—both here at home and throughout the world. In the 1870s, Rabbi Judah Wechsler opened the Torah to women, first allowing female confirmands to read from the sacred text; Rabbi Edgar Siskin became the first rabbi to be appointed to Yale University's faculty and helped to found Yale Hillel; and in the decades of the civil rights movement, Rabbi Robert Goldburg was an active champion of social justice protesting communism and inviting a myriad of speakers from Norman Cousins to The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. to address the congregation. Today, Rabbi Herbert Brockman upholds this legacy. Under his leadership, Mishkan Israel has opened its doors to the Urban Youth Center, a program for inner-city middle school children and sponsored the settlement of seven Russian Jewish emigrant families in New Haven.

In addition to its active leadership, members of Mishkan Israel have long been known for their endless contributions to the community. Volunteerism has always been strong force within the congregation and, through their compassion and generosity, the congregation has touched the lives of thousands over the years. Whether tending to the ill, volunteering at the local military hospital, purchasing Lib-

erty Bonds during World War I, or participating in the Pe'ah Project, which provides over a ton of vegetables from a congregant-run garden to area soup kitchens—the members of Mishkan Israel have shown a unique dedication to enriching our community.

Our houses of worship play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. In over a century, there have been many who have worshiped within their halls and many who have found peace and strength in the outstretched arms of Mishkan Israel. Throughout its history, Mishkan Israel has been an invaluable institution in the Greater New Haven Jewish community. It is with honor and the deepest thanks and appreciation for all of their good work that I stand today to pay tribute to Congregation Mishkan Israel as they celebrate their 165th Anniversary. Their contributions have left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that will live on for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL SARDONE

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Michael Sardone for his 21 years of dedicated public service to this Congress and the Federal Government. His career epitomizes professionalism and commitment to public service.

Mr. Sardone has served as an indexer and editor for the Congressional Record Index office, under the auspices of the Joint Committee on Printing and now a part of the GPO, since his appointment by former Senator Mathias of Maryland in 1984. His detailed knowledge of congressional history and process has earned him the respect of both his colleagues and Hill staffers. As an editor for the Congressional Record Index, he has also served as editor and project manager for the Congressional Directory and has spearheaded the production of indexes for both the House and Senate Journals.

Mr. Sardone is a Maryland native. He grew up in the Wheaton area of Montgomery County and graduated from Frostburg State University with a degree in political science. He met his wife, Ginny, at the Index office. She now works for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. They have one son, Matthew.

As he embarks on new endeavors, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending gratitude for his hard work and dedication to the Congress and the Nation.

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS RECOGNIZED AS A "STORMREADY" COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend North Richland Hills, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its

recognition as a "StormReady" community by the National Weather Service (NWS).

North Richland Hills was recognized as a "StormReady" community because it met all of the criteria set forth by the NWS. For a community to be so honored, it must: establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings, and to alert the public; create a system that monitors local weather conditions; promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and develop a formal hazardous weather plan which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

This is a noteworthy accomplishment because less than one percent of all cities and towns in the United States are categorized as "StormReady." The City of North Richland Hills cares deeply about its citizens and their safety. Severe weather is extremely common in North Texas where storms and tornadoes are frequent and set in with little warning. "StormReady" communities bring extra peace of mind to citizens.

North Richland Hills' "StormReady" status sets a wonderful model for other towns in Texas to improve their communication and safety skills which are needed to save lives and property. I am proud of North Richland Hills and its citizens who continued to better the community by doing the best in preparing for the worst.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN RON
SEGOVIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Ron Segovia's tremendous contribution to his community in my Congressional District of San Antonio, Texas.

Councilman Ron Segovia attended Harlandale High School in San Antonio, where he was a member of the ROTC. He studied at San Antonio College, and graduated from the Police Academy in 1975.

He served for 28 years as a San Antonio Police Officer, working in such special programs as DARE, SWAT, Crime Prevention, and Gang Resistance Education and Training. He was a part of the School Services program, which provided outreach and information to public school students.

Ron is also a successful small businessman. He owns Ron's Jewelers, which has been a fixture of the community for 22 years. He has used his role as a business owner to act as a benefactor and support educational programs in the community.

As a lifelong San Antonio resident he has given so much back to the community, as a protector, civil servant, and businessman.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize Councilman Ron Segovia.